

# More Goodness from



by Trusty

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## Ensoniq CDR Bundle Proteus VX/X - Emulator X\$199.00



These are those sounds heard on countless records. Seriously, the ones that the typical hobbyist producer has heard and thought about all the awesome tracks they could make if only those sounds were available in their own arsenal. These are the sounds many feared would only be locked to the *Timbaland Niko/Meko* in their revival. Well, here they are, finally available to anyone who wants them; and they sound better than ever: the basses sit very well in any mix; the strings have loads and loads of character; the synths have a *memory lane* feel to them; and the brass patches are very good--which is a nice change of pace from many sound libraries as these don't make you cringe. Some standouts are: the very usable distorted guitar patches; as well as the vox and effects patches which bring lots of fun to the table. The keys, organs, percussion, and woodwinds all sound great, as well.

This really is a great collection of *bread and butter* sounds that have an edge over more recent software and hardware rompler collections. That edge is the sonic character and punch that went into the original recording of these samples. The drum kits have that thump that many producers crave, and the drum loops are still worth a listen for their old school feel. *Hip-Hop heads* that get this collection will see why the ASR-10 is still a coveted piece of hardware.

A wee bit pricey at \$199.00 for 1198 patches that register in at a little over a gig; but *Digital Sound Factory* is great about having sales going on all the time; and hopefully you can catch them at the right time; for this is a must have for any *Pop, Hip-Hop, or RnB* producer out there. These are patches that can hold up year in and year out; and always a welcome addition to any arsenal. This collection is also divided into four individual sets that are available at \$59.95 a piece, so getting them over time is a good option as well.

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## Ensoniq MR SoundFont



This is a fun collection of sounds. To those that remember, this was that wonderful mix of sounds with an emphasis on urban instruments and world percussion instruments. If anyone is looking for a set of patches to bring that *Golden Era of Hip-Hop* goodness to their productions; whether they be *Hip-Hop* productions or not (any genre can benefit for that matter); because this is a one-stop set of the finest. At \$49.95, it is a no-brainer as well. It has all the charm and character you remember, and to those young musicians who have never heard them first hand, this set contains an outstanding foundation of sounds that fed the inspiration of those later modules you may have heard of. Still, these sounds don't just add the *Old School* sound just for the sake of it. The World Instruments here are still among the best of any collection; and

the *Urban Dance* sounds still beg to be tweaked and used in new ways on more modern style productions. Given the flexibility and tweakability of modern software samplers, the possibilities remain endless.

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## Ensoniq ZR SoundFont



The now discontinued E-Mu rack modules have one expansion card that is hard to find. When it can be found, on the second-hand market, it will usually fetch a higher price than many of the actual modules themselves. That ROM, of course, is the *Sounds of the ZR* expansion card. Originally shipping with the Ensoniq ZR76, then as the aforementioned expansion card, and afterward as an E-Mu keyboard as well; these sounds can now be available to all with this collection for \$49.95. To be sure, you will hear why these sounds are still sought after. The pianos, the drums, electric keyboard sounds, percussion and FX sounds are definitely still standouts. They hold up better than many new ROMpler software collections available today that take up to five or six times the amount of hard drive space, and at a better price. The only thing that takes away from this collection is the rather bland GM sound set, but that really matters little. These sounds, at this price, are definite keepers for anyone in the market for some great sounding lightweight (on the hard drive) patches for use in any style production.

